May 20, 2024

State of New York
2679 Route 8
County of Hamilton
Town of Lake Pleasant

A Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board was held on May 20, 2024 at the Lake Pleasant Library 2864 State Route 8, Speculator, NY 12164. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., to make approvals, give reports, establish organizational tasks and conduct any business that may come before the Board.

The following were present:
Supervisor: Betsy Bain
Councilman: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, Katherine O'Connell and Meg Parascandola
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Vi Wicks (BTI applicator) and Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #81 To Approve the Minutes of May 6, 2024.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – None
Be it resolved, that the minutes of May 6, 2024 be approved as presented.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- Highway crew has been working to get the pathways ready for the season. Docks need to get put in and signs up.
-Perkins clearing is open on the towns end and the state has been working to get their upper end open.
-Garbage truck has been repaired. The sensor was on due to a computer update that needed to be done.
- The town's backhoe was loaned out to Hamilton County for two days at the dump.
- CO2 alarm at the library went off on a Wednesday night and LaVarnway was called when no one was in the building. He checked the alarm and had the company reset it. All is well and in working order.
-Tennis courts on Elm Lake Rd. were cleaned and roots removed for easy mowing last Thursday.
-Museum will have the water turned on soon.
-Water is on in the cemeteries and mowing is commencing.

Vi Wicks asked LaVarnway if he can have the brush cut back on end of Oxbow Rd. for easier visibility for the school bus turning onto route 8. LaVarnway will contact the state to have this done. Discussion about roadways and work getting set up for the season for repairs.

Old Business:

1. **BTI Report-** Vi Wicks gave a report on the season. Treatment started end of March-May 11th, treating 42 streams for six weeks, 21 miles of streams with 4.2 Gallons of vectoback applied weather dependent. Not much larva was present this year. Shredded leaves were found in the streams after heavy rains. Eggs are laid in the fall and develop over winter. Larva is the only thing the vectoback kills, not the pupa. LaVarnway asked if an aerial application was a possibility and Wicks replied that it is not. Application has to be applied by ground in streams. Bain went over the costs of the licenses, permits, product etc. totaling $6,388.00 for 2024. Wicks let the board know that there is enough product for the next year.

2. **Museum Grant –** Meg Parascandola updated the board on the bid notice and bid packets getting assembled.

3. **Community Garden/ Caring Through Conservation mini grant -**June Bergholtz sent a note to Bain that Bain read thanking the board for their help with the garden and updating them about what they have accomplished thus far. She thanked Vogel Construction for the loan of a rototiller and Jim and June Bergholtz for all the work they did in preparation to start the season.
   O'Connell let the board know that the grant was received, and the greenhouse ordered with delivery scheduled for tomorrow.
   Braunius asked if all plots are taken and Bain said that they are all reserved. Discussion about getting the community garden updates on the website was had.

4. **Election Term Extention – Highway Superintendent-**
   Bain sent everyone a copy of the local law to move the terms of Highway Superintendent from two years to four years.
   Moved to discuss by: McGovern
   2nd by: Braunius
   Discussion: O'Connell is concerned that if the town gets a new person down the line and they are not doing the same quality work, then the town is stuck with a bad Highway Superintendent for four years.
   Braunius explained that the experience needed for several tasks for the job is one not to be taken lightly with an extended term. Discussion continued around the table.

   All in Favor
   Opposed: O'Connell

Town Clerk Stephanie Smith read aloud:
Resolution #82 Town of Lake Pleasant, In the Matter of the Adoption of A Local Law to Increase the Term of Office of the Town Highway Superintendent from Two (2) to four (4) years.

*****SEE ATTACHED*****

Bain explained that at the next meeting there will be a public hearing and another resolution to adopt the local law. Town clerk will then proceed with the mandatory referendum steps at the next general election in November.

New Business:

1. **Buildings Maintance** –

   For six weeks Town Hall has tried to fill the cleaning position for town buildings. Bain tried to see if the cleaning of the library could be done by a library employee. Town Hall is being cleaned by Bain and Smith in front offices and highway employee in garage/lunch room for now. Budget allows for hiring a cleaning person. Discussion of hiring a person to do building maintenance and cleaning with grounds work was had by the room. This would take the pressure off the highway department and LaVarnway in having to run around with all the building maintenance. LaVarnway explained why parks and Recreation has a budget line for employees to get paid out of a General fund. Snowmobiling is coming out of another fund so that it can be tracked what funds are needed for what jobs and better tracking where funds are spent. Gathering funds from fund lines to pay this new employee was discussed. O'Connell mentioned that retirees may be interested in this as a part time job.

   Discussion of making this a more substantial position was had. The board would like to give it more thought and discuss it at the next board meeting.

2. **Town Tennis Courts at County Building** –

   Bain sent the board members an e-mail about the contract up for renewal on June 30, 2024 between the County and the Town of Lake Pleasant. The contract required the town to pay for any costs and repairs to the courts. Braunius feels that the town should finish the contract and lease the courts for an additional year and then terminate the contract, turning all materials to the County, once the Elm Lake Courts are redone and open to the public. O'Connell doesn't want to see the town spend any more funds to repair the County's tennis courts. LaVarnway explained that the paint is chipping and the large maple tree is dropping leaves and debre all the time on the courts. Bain will take to the

County, the towns wish to lease the courts for another year but the County would need to do all maintenance at their expense.

Bain asked if the town will be giving the nets and fences to the County or taking them with them. O'Connell mentioned that the town of Lake Pleasant has been providing these courts for the County residents and visitors for many years and it would be nice if the County would take these on and give the town a break for a one year lease.

Bain to present this to the County and have them draw up the agreement for the board to review.

3. **RO Systems -** Bain explained that the new company, RMB, has been installing the systems and some issues arose. One was a well submersible pump that is not the responsibility of the town. Two other RO System owners have not gotten in touch with the town to date. RMB will be coming back to make sure all systems are installed and working correctly. Residents are supposed to get their RO systems installed the same day. Discussion and explanation about the history of the RO systems was had at the table.
   Bain went over a letter that was sent out in 2021 to the residents letting the owners know that they are responsible for any part of the system for their water outside of what the town must provide to the residents.
   The suit says that the town must provide potable water. This does not include repairing aging water systems and sceptics at these residents.

4. **Planning Board Resignation** – The town received a resignation letter from Monroe (Collie) Smith so Bain asks all to think of someone to take the position.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee – Braunius and LaVarnway met in the South Shore Cemetery and decided that the three trees that fell over the winter will need to be cut up and removed from the cemetery.

Highway Committee – McGovern and LaVarnway want advertising done to get a mechanic or hire a medium equiptment operator or laborer to allow for current employees to get work done in the garage. Seasonal employee would work. Discussion about ways to advertise for job was had and having a banner sign made was discussed along with social media posts and fliers up in town.

Resolution #83 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the Town Highway Superintendent to Hire a Seasonal Employee for 2024.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius

Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

It was clarified that wage, hrs. and months needed will be determined.

-LaVarnway showed the board the new brush pit sign. He has been researching solar run cameras versus cell phone run cameras that have a monthly fee. Battery cameras are not practical due to having to climb trees to change batteries and SD cards. Sign states that visitors are on camera. LaVarnway would like to purchase four cameras. One to place at the sign and three around the bush pit. The cell phone run cameras can be taken down in the winter. Board agreed to start with the sign and cameras. Clerk to collect fees from contractors and fines at Town Hall.

Website Committee – Parascandola explained that the link for demo to set up new site has been received and will be tested out soon. Bain praised Parascandola for her work on the website.

Youth Recreation- O'Connell reported that they are still working on setting up the events for summer. Possibly a grant coming for one of the programs this summer. Details to follow.

Buildings Committee – O'Connell let the board know that the legal is drawn up and the committee is waiting on pricing for the legal. O'Connell wants pricing before legal to run in paper. Smith explained that a minimum of five days is required to advertise in the paper. McGovern wants it expedited and in papers without pricing. The committee would like the legal in three newspapers.

Resolution # 84 The Town Board Runs Legal for Invitation to Bids for the Museum Foundation Project as Soon as Possible.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #85 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #20 dated: 5/16/2024, #3456-3477 in the amount of $6,768.64.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell asked about the supplies for the parts room. LaVarnway explained that there is a hole in the flooring in the parts room with cold coming in. This was fixed with insulation to keep the cold out.
Adopted by the following votes:

Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Hoffman reported that the Museum should be open this coming Friday May 24, 2024.

Roundtable:

- McGovern mentioned that Cris Meixner, previous board member and outstanding community member, will be moving.
-O'Connell sincerely reported that Henry Rogers passed away.
-Bain mentioned that soil and water at the County has an idea for wood chips and will be reaching out to LaVarnway.
-Bain reported that she misspoke about wages for BTI at the last meeting. The wages are $20 applicators and $22 for technicians.
-Bain mentioned the fines for short term rental owners not registering. These were waved in 2023 but will be looking at moving forward with them. Fourteen STR's are currently registered in the town.
- Bain will be meeting with Sean Fadele with Nathan Littauer soon.
-No primary election this June in Hamilton County.
-Pretty good band sent the town a thank you note for their support.
-Mortgage tax check from October 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 of $12,43.00 and $15,000.00 was budgeted.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday June 3, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #1

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius 2ND **by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:51 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk